Surcharges *vis-a-vis* basic air fare

337. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists an anomalous situation on the fare of domestic air fares as surcharges are 4-5 times the basic fare; and

(b) if so, the authority which is ensuring that these surcharges are justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces. At present air fare charged by the private scheduled domestic airlines comprises of basic fare, fuel surcharge, congestion surcharge, passenger service fee and transaction fee (if the ticket is booked through any point of purchase other than the website). Out of the aforesaid charges, only passenger service fee (Rs. 200/- per passenger) is collected by the Airlines on behalf of the airport operators and Central Government.

Baggage theft at airports

338. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of theft of baggages of passengers have increased in the past few months from renowned airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officials of security, customs and airports are not taking any action in this regard;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to enquire the matter and book the responsible officials involved in such thefts; and

(e) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Information on the cases of theft are being collected from airlines operators.

(c) to (e) Actions, as per law, are taken by CISF and local police. To curb such incidents, all loaders are frisked thoroughly before and after the loading, vigilance has been enhanced at airports, loading/unloading of checked-in baggage is done under supervision of security, automated In-line Baggage X-Ray Screening system is being introduced at major airports.